

# The Romulus Roman

November 8, 2001

Vol. 107, Number 45

75¢

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ROMULUS

2 Sections, 16 Pages

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**Attention! Sound Off has a new telephone number and calling hours**

Our new number is (734) 729-4000 ext. 206. You may now call seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Better yet, our new digital answering machine actually works.

**County wave pool would create an easy target for terrorists**

Every time I think about the Wayne County water park that the township board wants to build at Ford and Ridge roads, I think about the potential security nightmare.

Didn't the FBI arrest three people from Detroit in the terrorism probe? I wonder how many other members of this Wayne County terrorist cell got away.

If a Wayne County water park is built in Canton, it will be open to everybody in Wayne County, including the members of this Wayne County terrorist cell that got away. If the arrested terrorist suspects are released on bail, they will also be able to enter the park.

Given the many security problems we currently face today, we shouldn't add another one by welcoming thousands of strangers to a children's play area any more than we invite them inside our schools.

**Some events only happen once in a blue moon in Westland**

On the night of Halloween, I was surprised to see [name deleted] at a gas station. I wondered why he would buy his own gasoline for his free take-home city car instead of using the free Westland DPW gas pump. Then I looked up at the sky, saw the blue moon, and remembered that some unusual events only happen once in a blue moon.

**INSIDE**

Classifieds	B-1
Inkster	A-2
Letters	A-5
Obituaries	A-5
Opinion	A-4
Sound Off Extra	A-4
Sports	A-6
Wayne	A-3

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## Lambert is mayor of Romulus

Oakley loses by more than 900 votes to veteran law enforcement officer

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

A veteran law enforcement officer on Tuesday proved that he is also a seasoned political campaign strategist.

The officer, Alan R. Lambert, making his first bid for the mayor's office, unseated a political icon of the city, William Oakley, and will become the next mayor of Romulus.

Lambert defeated Oakley by more than 900 votes. The unofficial tally is Lambert received 2,767 votes as compared to Oakley's 1,858 votes.

The Board of Canvassers is scheduled to meet later this week to certify the election results.

Lambert, a lifelong resident of Romulus and the father of five,

*The newly-elected mayor, and city council members will be sworn in during ceremonies at city hall on November 13.*

has served on the Romulus Police force for 14 years. He ran on a platform that he would serve all of the people "with respect and courtesy."

In his campaign literature, Lambert stated that he was "familiar with the city's operations, and was uniquely trained and qualified to undertake the leadership role in the city."

He also promised to seek state



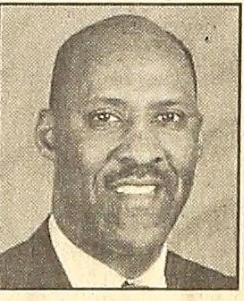
Alan R. Lambert



Burcroff



Crova



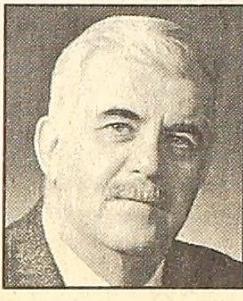
Gear



Prybyla



Romak



Wadsworth

## Voters like council incumbents

With one exception, the voters of Romulus went with their experienced legislators as six of the seven city council members were reelected to office.

Voters returned to council Leroy Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Michael A. Prybyla, Debbie Romak and William J. Wadsworth.

They also gave newcomer Charles Ronald Miller a seat on council. Miller will replace Donald R. Morris who failed in his bid for reelection.

Gear continued to charm the local voters who awarded him

again with the honor of being the top vote getter. The mayor pro tem of council received 2,945 votes. Incidentally, that's more than the successful candidate for mayor, Alan R. Lambert got. Lambert's winning total was 2,767.

However, Gear topped Romak, who was elected to her second term, by only 18 votes. Romak finished with 2,927 votes.

Wadsworth, a law enforcement officer who has been on council for more than a dozen years, finished third in the running with 2,705 votes, followed by Burcroff (2,198), Crova (2,049) Miller (1,813) and Prybyla, who had 1,799.

Morris, who was seeking his second four-year term, lost his bid to retain his seat by more than 225 votes.

Although he failed in his bid to obtain one of the seven seats available, former Romulus City Councilman Barry Baumann finished with 1,355 votes. The field also included local businessman Steven J. Lewkowicz, the son of a political icon in the community, John, who served the city as treasurer and on council. Steven Lewkowicz received 1,093 votes.

Also making a bid for council was Wandra V. Raspberry, wife of former longtime council member Jimmie Raspberry. She received 1,579 votes.

Michael L. Wojtylko, who was awarded 1,715 votes, and Christopher A. Walock, who got 718 votes, were also unsuccessful in their initial bids for council.

Longtime City Clerk Linda R. Choate and City Treasurer Pamela Morrison ran unopposed. There were 4,660 votes cast on a sunlit, and an unusually warm November Tuesday.

"We didn't have any problems," said Choate after the election.

## Student signed photo highlights dedication



Romulus Elementary secretary, Cathy Coleman helped direct student guides who greeted and seated guests at the school's dedication ceremony. Students (left to right) are Evans Pallere, Kevin Riley, Natasha Weathers and Jessica Pauli.

## Housekeeping — Part-Time

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Leather, 3800 Series II V6, instrumentation, electrochromic mirror, AM/FM/cass., 10 way power drivers seat & memory mirrors, driver & passenger 4 way lumbar, universal transmitter, Onstar, traction control system. Stk. #92076.

Was \$36,052

GMS For Everyone on all Park Avenues

**\$29,842\*** LEASE **\$382<sup>81\*\*</sup>**  
Total due \$4,209 or less

**2002 YUKON 4WD**

Front reclining buckets w/power adjusters, side step running boards, GVW rating, 6000 lbs., Vortec 5300 V8 Bi-fuel eng., auto, AM/FM/cass./CD, heavy duty trailer pkg., power seats, power windows, tinted glass. Stk. #72407

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**\$439<sup>72\*\*</sup>** Total due \$3,610 or Less

**2002 ENVOY 4 DOOR**

Leasing a GMC product...  
NOW - extra \$650.  
Lease rebates

Deluxe front bucket seats, Vortec 4200 inline 6 cyl eng., auto, AM/FM/cass./CD, theft alarm, power pass. seat, pwr. wind. pwr., seat, pwr. locks, tinted glass. Stk. #72342

Was \$25,308

GMS \$25,716.88\* LEASE  
**\$319<sup>27\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2827 or Less

**2002 RENDEZVOUS AWD 4 DR.**

0% INTEREST AVAILABLE

3.4L SFI V6 engine, 4 spd. auto w/OD, security pkg., cargo net, overhead console, storage syst., theft deterrent sys., rear parking aid, Onstar, Universal garage door opener, driver info center cluster, all wheel drive! Pwr. wind., doors & locks, tinted glass! Stk. #92110

GMS \$25,183.08\* LEASE  
**\$279<sup>98\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2735 or Less

Valued Customer \$25,887.00\* LEASE  
**\$299<sup>98\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2735 or Less

**2001 TRANS AM**

Custom bucket seats, 5.7 liter SFI V8 engine, 4 spd., auto., traction control, 16" chrome aluminum wheels, all weather tires. Stk. #61170

Was \$28,820.08

**GMS FOR EVERYONE**  
**\$23,466<sup>08\*</sup>**

**2002 SIERRA 1500 4WD 4 DR.**

0% Financing

Vortec V8 gas eng., 4 spd. auto., AM/FM stereo, handling/trailing suspension package, air. Stk. #72290

GMS \$22,804.67\* LEASE  
**\$311<sup>87\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2819 or Less

GMS \$31,973.97\* LEASE  
**\$382<sup>81\*\*</sup>** Total due \$4,209 or less

**2002 SONOMA EXT. CAB PICKUP**

0% APP

ON EVERY SONOMA

GVW rating, 4,600 lbs., auto. trans., heavy duty susp. pkg., SLS trim, deep tinted glass, leather wrapped steering wheel, alum. wheels, AM/FM/CD/equal., tilt, cruise.

GMS \$15,099.01\* LEASE  
**\$199<sup>11\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2575 or Less

GMS \$15,099.01\* LEASE  
**\$210<sup>74\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2575 or Less

**2002 CENTURY CUSTOM SEDAN**

0% APR  
ON ALL  
CENTURYS

55/45 split bench, 3.1 liter SFI V6, 4 spd. trans., pwr. door locks, instrumentation, keyless entry, AM/FM stereo, concert sound syst., tilt, theft deterrent syst., pwr. windows. Stk. #92136

GMS \$16,952.23\* LEASE  
**\$264<sup>02\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2733 or Less

GMS \$17,413.63\* LEASE  
**\$277<sup>88\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2733 or Less

**2002 MONTANA VAN**

GREAT  
VALUE  
VEHICLE!

4 spd. auto. trans., 3.4L V6, P215/70R15 self sealing touring tires & much, much more! Stk. #72155

GMS \$20,205.63\* LEASE  
**\$288<sup>75\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2229 or Less

Valued Customer \$20,775.03\* LEASE  
**\$305<sup>62\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2229 or Less

**2002 GRAND PRIX GT SEDAN**

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available at  
similar  
savings

3.8L V6, 4 spd., auto trans., sunroof, pwr. glass, spoiler, full power. Stk. #62197

GMS \$19,981.18\* LEASE  
**\$285<sup>54\*\*</sup>** Total due \$1925 or Less

Valued Customer \$20,480.80\* LEASE  
**\$299<sup>98\*\*</sup>** Total due \$1925 or Less

**2002 GRAND AM SE COUPE**

THIS CAR  
IS THE  
BARGAIN OF  
BARGAINS

4 speed auto. trans. w/enhanced traction system, cruise control. Stk. #62192

GMS \$14,664.56\* LEASE  
**\$193<sup>66\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2358 or Less

GMS \$205<sup>64\*\*</sup> Total due \$2358 or Less

**2002 GRAND AM GT COUPE**

3.4L V6 w/power steering, 4 spd. auto., traction sys., split fold rear seat, sport int., trunk storage net, pwr. windows/mirrors/drive seat, cruise, leather wrapped steering wheel, shift knob, lumbar adj., driver seat, reading & courtesy lamps. Stk. #62093

GMS \$17,195.60\* LEASE  
**\$262<sup>66\*\*</sup>** Total due \$1886 or Less

GMS \$261<sup>64\*\*</sup> Total due \$1886 or Less

**2002 GRAND PRIX SE SEDAN**

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3.1L V-6, auto, remote keyless, AM/FM stereo w/CD & 6 spkr. sound sys., 6-way pwr. driver seat, cargo net, rr. seat pass-thru, 16" 5-spoke alum. whls, P225/60R16 tires. Stk. #62198

GMS \$18,315.88\* LEASE  
**\$276<sup>81\*\*</sup>** Total due \$1900 or Less

Valued Customer \$18,542.88\* LEASE  
**\$276<sup>19\*\*</sup>** Total due \$1900 or Less

**2002 SUNFIRE SE COUPE**

\$2500  
REBATE

2.2L 4 cyl eng., P195/65R15 touring tires, AM/FM stereo w/CD, eq. rds. & 8 spkr. sound, auto. trans. Stk. #62005

GMS \$11,392.18\* LEASE  
**\$209<sup>81\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2586 or Less

Valued Customer \$11,714.01\* LEASE  
**\$219<sup>56\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2586 or Less

**2002 BONNEVILLE SE SEDAN**

4 speed auto., 3.8L V6, leather wrapped steering w/radio controls, PW, PL, tilt, cruise. Call for details. Stk. #62118

GMS \$21,611.80\* LEASE  
**\$291<sup>72\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2563 or Less

Valued Customer \$22,134\* LEASE  
**\$306<sup>66\*\*</sup>** Total due \$2563 or Less

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## NEWS FROM THE CITY OF WAYNE

**Scouts against violence**

Members of the St. Matthew's Girl Scouts recently joined a score of other groups and individuals who marched in a rally against violence. The march and rally were organized by the YWCA and approximately 150 persons participated in the 10th annual program that focused upon eliminating the incidents of violence in our homes and on the streets.

**Students help NY terrorists' victims**

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

Seventh grade students in Sharon Sullivan's World Studies class had already chosen their service learning project for the semester.

But, then, came Sept. 11, 2001, a day that will remain in all of their lives.

They quickly decided that they wanted New York to know that Franklin Middle School students do care about them and the world they live in.

**Future thespians, attention**

Registration is presently being accepted at the Wayne Community Center for the Stage IV Youth Theatre classes. Classes are scheduled to begin the first week of December.

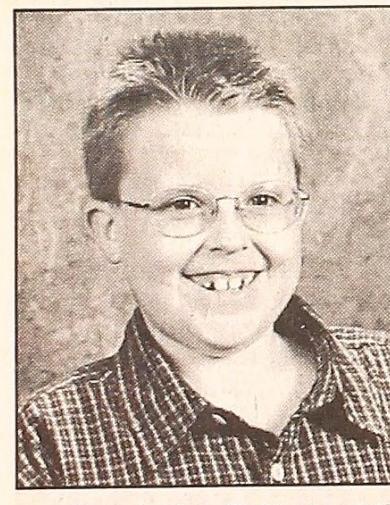
The program is geared toward young adults, ages 13 to 18.

Classes will be directed by Tracy Spada and will take place 1:30 a.m. until noon Saturday morn-

For two weeks the students have been collecting change during lunch periods to donate to the American Red Cross.

Every student who has donated has received a red, white and blue ribbon to wear. The students' goal is \$1000. They are presently only \$300 short of their goal.

The students have been coming in on their own time to make ribbons, count money and make posters. They have decorated a box to collect letters in support of the New York Fire Department.



Christopher Collingsworth

**Adams hosts Spelling Bee competition**

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

The 21st annual Earle Chorbaian Spelling Bee competitions will be staged at Adams Middle School beginning at 9:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 9, in the school's library.

One student from each elementary and middle school in the district will be competing for honors and the right to advance to the regional competition.

The Spelling Bee is open to Wayne-Westland School District students who are in the fifth through eighth grades.

One student who is already a winner is Christopher Collingsworth who captured first place in the spell-down at Hoover Elementary School. Christopher successfully spelled the word "popular" to win. Ashley Graham was runners-up in the competition.

Winners of the local competition advance to the districts and then to regionals. The state champ has an opportunity to compete for national honors.

For more information about the Wayne-Westland Spelling Bee, please contact Sally Perkins, executive director of elementary education at 734-595-2096.

ings. The classes begin Dec. 1 and are ongoing until Feb. 17, 2002. The culmination of the course features a full-stage performance by the students.

Registration is \$100 for residents, and \$125 for non-residents. For further information, please contact the Wayne Parks and Rec. Department at 734-721-7400.

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Christopher will be directed by Tracy Spada and will take place 1:30 a.m. until noon Saturday morn-

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# Opinion

November 8-14, 2001

Page A-4

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## Americans must not fall asleep when it comes to our country's defenses

As I came back to the office from the polls, I clicked on my e-mail and noticed the following essay. It is an opinion from an anonymous person in our armed services, but an opinion shared by many, including this writer.

AMERICA no longer feels safe. Many of you have said "The government should have known! \$30 billion spent on intelligence! What about the military? Just a reminder, America, you voted our government into office. For years you allowed some politicians and twisted media to shape your ideas about the defense of our nation.

On September 11th, America had the exact level of production, both militarily and intelligence, that it was willing to pay for. Did anyone ever watch C-SPAN? Particularly when the Heads of our Armed Services essentially begged OUR representatives to give the Military more money to fight terrorism and maintain a strong defense?

Did you see the debates by the heads of the intelligence services that terrorism was the new threat and we did not have the money to build the necessary intelligence networks in the areas where terrorists were being harbored? America must have been watching one of the other 114 satellite channels.

The Military said, "We need more money to maintain military readiness and combat training."

America answered, "What the military needs is sensitivity training! You're all sexist homophobes! I saw it on the evening news."

The Military said, "We need money to build ships, planes, tanks and improve our technology. America still has credible threats throughout the world." America answered, "You're all part of a vast right-wing conspiracy. There is no more Soviet Threat! My Senator told me so!"

The Military said, "We need to recruit more Americans into the military. We need to increase

our force." America answered, "You're not taking my kids! We're going to shut down the ROTC programs at our high schools and universities because you discriminate against alternative lifestyles and women."

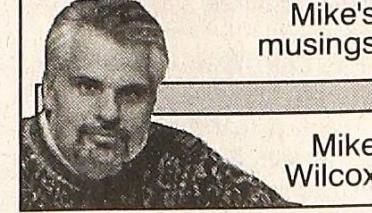
The Military said, "We can't keep interfering in the civil wars of small insignificant countries. It wastes our time, expends our resources, decreases training, and demoralizes troops. We are warriors trying to defend our nation, not the third world's police." America answered, "You heartless bastards! Can't you see the tear in the eye of that starving child with the flies on his face?"

The Military asked, "Why isn't America enraged over the terrorist attack on the USS Cole that killed seventeen AMERICAN sailors? America answered, "We don't have time right now. You war mongers killed the poor innocent security guard in Puerto Rico and we're already late for the protest march!"

So, America while you sit around your office coffee pots and ask: "Why did those terrorists kill innocent civilians? Why didn't they go after the military?" Remember this: They already did and America didn't care.

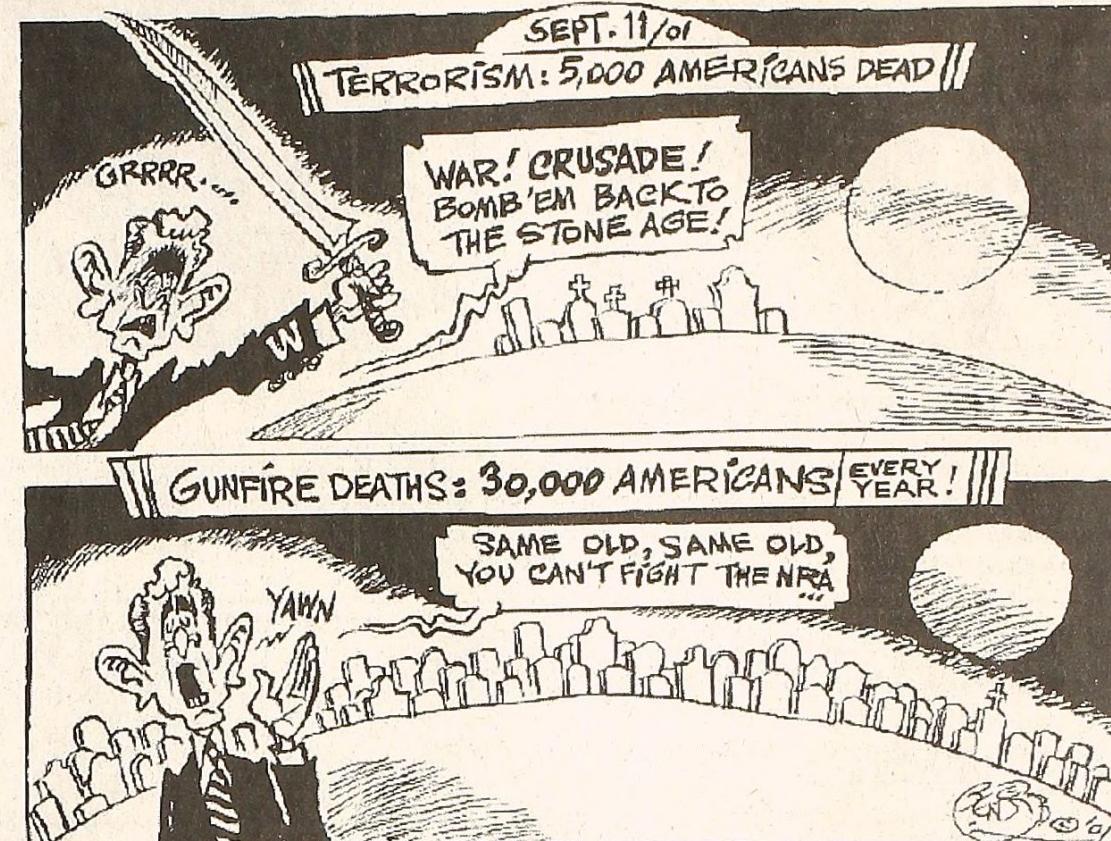
The terrorists realized that they needed to kill civilians, and lots of them, before they could have their desired reaction. Well, now they have it.

YES THEY DO! Our friend in the military is right. We were asleep at the wheel. We didn't think any country or person would dare attack us on our soil. But now they will pay, and we as Americans, must never forget the tragedy of September 11.



Mike's musings

Mike Wilcox



## 'We cannot let a few diminish our community'

Dear Residents,

As leaders within the Plymouth-Canton area, we feel compelled to share with you our outrage and concern over the actions of a small, yet vocal group within our greater community. Over the last few months a concerted effort has been made to undermine the leadership of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District.

We support the right to disagree and believe that different points of view are healthy. We also believe that there are many appropriate vehicles to communicate a particular point of view. It appears that this minority group has been unsuccessful in "selling their ideas" to the Board of Education and the greater community and now are engaged in a campaign of negativity.

These individuals have engaged in a variety of unacceptable behaviors, among them are: spreading untruths, disseminating misinformation, distortions, exaggerations and character assassination. These individuals are unencumbered by the truth and appear to lack a moral compass.

Serving as a school board member or a school superintendent requires both personal and family sacrifices. We should expect that these individuals will be treated with dignity and respect. In the current climate it will be increasingly difficult to recruit and retain quality leaders to lead our school district and our communities. We can not let a few diminish our community.

We need to recognize that these individuals are malicious and committed to tearing down, rather than building up. It is time for us as a community to say we do not embrace, nor will we tolerate, the politics of personal destruction. We as a community need to stand, at this time, united in our support for our educational leaders and against the tyranny of the minority.

Steve Mann  
Supervisor,  
Plymouth Township

David McDonald  
Mayor, City of Plymouth

John Stewart  
State Representative

Tom Yack  
Supervisor, Canton Township

## We cannot let secrecy diminish our community

Dear Residents,

As a peon within the Plymouth-Canton educational community, I feel compelled to share with you my outrage and concern over the actions of a small silent group within our greater community, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' administration and school board.

Over the last few years, a concerted effort has been made to undermine the future of students in the Plymouth-Canton Community School District.

At first, Canton Supervisor Tom Yack courageously mounted an intelligence operation against the cabal's secret meetings.

When Yack's agents reported that the meetings were not being televised, the supervisor put together a crack battalion of camera persons and video technicians, and invaded the Harvey Street bunker. In the face of light resistance from the palace guard, Yack's elite rangers taped the meeting, rebroadcast it in Canton, and held the territory for future tapings of the sessions.

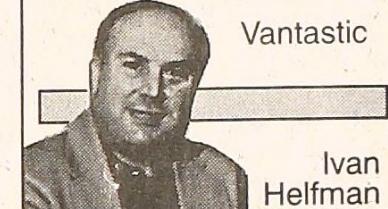
Despite the force's occupation of a board viewing area, the district countered with psychological and intelligence warfare.

Instead of discussing substantial school business at public meetings before Yack's cameras, administrators and school board members turned the meetings into, at best, dog and pony shows — at worst, hot dog and baloney shows — where members and board members praised themselves and prize lackeys who could best jump through hoops.

Substantial meetings were switched to safe locations, such as the intermediate school district's boardroom in Wayne, catching Yack's cable rangers off guard.

From the new hideout, the district was able to create secret strategies to destroy the last vestiges of tradition from the district. Targeted was Central Middle School, the last link to the past, a place where generations of students shared the same classrooms, hallways, gymnasium, and playground.

Connected generations? Can't have that. With connections, a strong community might develop.



Vantastic

Ivan Helfman

With a strong community comes power to confront an overreaching school district and the power to demand schools more in line with community standards and students' abilities and less eager to comply with "progressive" social engineers' whims designed to treat most students as potentially "at risk" — whatever that means.

(Fortunately, many students, supported by loving parents, supplement their "progressive" educations with tutors, extra classes, and good ol' fashioned hard work.)

While I support the district's right to disagree with community standards, I also believe that the administrators and school board members should have launched their disagreements in public.

They didn't, and it appears that this minority group of educators has been successful in "selling their ideas" to city and township bureaucrats, including Supervisor Yack.

Too bad, because these educators have engaged in a variety of unacceptable behaviors, among them are: power-grabbing, running the schools in secrecy; disseminating gibberish; and trying to shortchange students. These individuals are unencumbered by the truth and appear to have borrowed a moral compass from Gary Condit.

Serving as a school board member or a school superintendent requires both personal and family sacrifices. We should expect that these individuals will act with dignity and respect students and community members.

Due to the district's secrecy, it has been impossibly difficult to recruit and retain quality leaders to lead our school district and difficult to keep enough students in our goofy public schools to anticipate a solvent district when Plymouth High School opens. We can not let a few public school educators diminish our community.

## Coming Jan. 1 — judicial tyranny



Medium Rare

Jim Rarey

gave defendants a choice between "thirty days or thirty dollars" or some such choice. But that was where the defendant was charged with a crime, albeit usually a minor misdemeanor.

Also, that was before the current rage of downgrading many misdemeanors to the status of "civil infractions" where there supposedly was no possibility of jail time only findings of "liable" for a civil penalty. The trade-off was supposed to be no criminal record in return for losing several constitutional rights one would have in a criminal case, e.g. the right to an attorney, the right to confront witnesses and the right to a jury trial.

Under this new Supreme Court rule, there would now be the possibility of going to jail as well as losing constitutional rights. Judges could use their "contempt" powers to jail those who did not pay fines immediately.

It is time for the state legislature to put the clamps on the Supreme Court and make the rules (instead of the court) just as Congress makes the rules for federal courts. That will not happen unless public pressure demands it.

In earlier days, judges often

that would require defendants to pay fines immediately when sentenced or risk going to jail. This would apply to traffic fines, assessments for civil infractions as well as criminal penalties. Last week the court announced it was implementing the "rule" effective January 1, 2002. (The September trial balloon was discussed by this writer in the context of the return of debtors' prisons.)

Although the exact wording of the "rule" is not yet available, the gist is that judges would be required to jail defendants who did not pay fines at sentencing unless the judge made a finding of inability to pay.

What a can of worms that would open requiring judges to make subjective findings differentiating between those who truly could not pay and those who just didn't want to pay immediately.

In earlier days, judges often

## SOUND OFF EXTRA

Who's name should have signed it?

However, that trash definitely decided my vote for me — GO CI-CIRELLI!

Cowards, with no backbone who hide their names on trash defeat themselves. They should get a life!

What kind of caring 'brainiac' would brag about not voting?

Call me a dingbat (brushing the jelly out of my blonde hair) but what kind of "brainiac" would profess to care so much for others (making fun of overweight people does not count as caring by the way) would brag about not voting? It would seem to me and most Americans that those who cannot take the time to vote should not take the time to criticize.

If Ms. Cicirelli would get a \$50,000 pension after only one term, then so would Richard LeBlanc, so what kind of argument is that?

[Not part of Westland's retirement system, LeBlanc could not be eligible for a pension until after eight years as mayor, if elected.]

Spineless cowards send out attack flier, angering caller

I just received mail, addressed to me, with no return address on the envelope.

It was a smear campaign page, against Sandy Cicirelli, with many council members mentioned, both before and after the recall, and attempted to link Ms. Cicirelli with these ousted council members.

If Ms. Cicirelli would get a \$50,000 pension after only one term, then so would Richard LeBlanc, so what kind of argument is that?

[Not part of Westland's retirement system, LeBlanc could not be eligible for a pension until after eight years as mayor, if elected.]

Curiously, Richard LeBlanc's name didn't appear anywhere on this piece of filth!

Perhaps somebody didn't

spend enough time getting an education, civics class in particular, to make an intelligent statement.

Despite Todd's complaints, Westland offers dancing spots

Hey, to Ms. Todd, there are plenty of places to go dancing around town.

The Wayne-Ford Civic League sponsored a Halloween Party, why didn't you check it out? [Ms. Todd was there in full costume—Ed.]

Or how about a nearby mall that is going to have a dance marathon, wouldn't that be fun?

What goes around, comes around, and lands on Angela Todd

Once again, Ms. Todd feels compelled to end her ravings with insult. I suppose now she will

wonder why it is people openly criticize her.

There is an old saying, "What goes around, comes around."

Perhaps someday, Ms. Todd will realize that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

It is obvious to me that Ms. Todd, having gone to the Tammy Faye Baker school of cosmetology, shouldn't criticize other people's outward appearance.

Let Cliff Johnson take care of Wayne, not the city of Westland

In answer to Cliff Johnson's letter in last week's paper, I have been in touch with him for 18 years. He does not live in Westland.

Let him take care of Wayne and the citizens at large will take care of our own city.



MICHIGAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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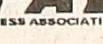
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ASSISTANT PUBLISHER

MANAGEMENT TEAM

IVAN HELFMAN - SYBILLE MARR

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## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

# Applaud Marine Private Josh Gracin

**To the editor:**

This letter is in response to the negative comments by Ms. Takacs towards Brenda and Mario Gracins presentation to Mr. LeBlanc on behalf of their son.

If this were not an election season, Mr. and Mrs. Gracin would have been applauded on raising such a responsible, civic-minded, young man. Josh Gracin would have been admired as being an excellent example of an American citizen walking the wall that protects the rights of all citizens by enlisting in the Air Force. My mind wanders to what Josh Gracin is feeling right now during this crisis and what he will have to face in the future. How he has been influenced by his parents to think of others in the Armed Forces that don't receive letters. Caring enough about his fellow soldiers to ask his fellow citizens

in Westland to write to them, I think about the emotions coursing through his family and how I cried watching Brenda Gracin express her sons words because I am a mom too. At the very least, we as American Citizens sitting at home enjoying the luxury of our freedom provided by those who have chosen of their own free will to protect us, should listen to Brenda Gracin speaking her son's words. We should listen with appreciation for the sacrifice Josh Gracin has made. We should listen because the words spoken were not for political gain but in celebration of our freedom as American Citizens. We should listen because it is important to an American Soldier. We should listen because even Mrs. Cicirelli did not stop those words.

Have we become so bitter, so divided during this election sea-

son that we see conspiracy in every action, lies in every word? How can I inspire my children to appreciate the democratic process if we have adults behaving like spoiled children demanding to have their way, seeing "boogy men" in every corner? Are peoples loyalties so weak that their decision to support one candidate would be swayed by the expression of appreciation towards a civil servant by one of our citizens who because of his dedication to our country cannot be here to speak for himself? I want to hear his words whether he supports a candidate I believe in or not. I want Josh Gracin to know that we who sit here protected appreciate his sacrifice to his country enough to hear him and his words and feelings have meaning to all of us. Whether we support his views or not, we should all sup-

port him. This is not about politics, this is about a young man of this city who faces an uncertain future expressing himself on an issue that is important to him. His right to speak freely is something he has backed up with actions in his service to our country. If it weren't for people like Josh Gracin, we would not have the luxury of sitting in our homes expressing our opinions freely and criticizing openly.

I think we all should take a few moments and realize that in this election season, for the most part, we have the opportunity to choose the "best of the best" in most candidates. We shouldn't be slinging mud, we should be setting examples. We should be adhering to the same high standards we expect.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Barton  
Westland

**OBITUARIES**  
**BRITTON, ERWIN A.**, 86, died on October 30. He was born in Ohio and was a graduate of Oberlin College and a graduate of the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. He served as a minister of the First Congregational Church of Wayne (1941-1964) and of the First Congregational Church of Detroit (1964-1975). Following those ministries he became the Executive Secretary of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (1975-1981). Following his retirement he became Assistant to the President of Olivet College in Olivet, MI of which he was a long-time trustee. During the summers from 1981-1985 he served as minister of the Union Congregational Church ("Little Stone Church") on Mackinac Island. In 1986 he moved from Winter Park, where he became active in the community affairs and served as President of the University Club of Winter Park. He held honorary degrees from Olivet College and from Piedmont College. His first marriage wa to Carolyn Heron Britton, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife Alice Schriver Britton; his daughters Margaret (Penny) Kollhoff of Bloomington, IL, Elizabeth Quick of Detroit, Constance Britton of Wooster, OH; and two grandchildren, Amanda Quicks and David Quicks. A memorial service will be held at the University Club of Winter Park, at a date to be announced. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, friends wishing to do so may make gifts to the Educational Assistance Fund of the University Club of Winter Park or the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, or a charity of the donor's choice.

REICHOW III, WILLIAM C. "Billy", 22, of

Westland, passed away October 13. Beloved son of William C. (Lydia) Reichow Jr. Loving brother of Melanie and Kristen, and step-brother of Tysha. Funeral services were held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home with Minister Marcus Barlow and Duwanna Jackson officiating. Interment followed at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne.

**RIGDON, BEVERLY JANE**, 66, of Wayne, passed away October 10. Beloved daughter of Hazel Rigdon. Dearest niece of Wilson Lee. Funeral services were held at Mannasim-Hale Funeral Home, Marsville, OH. Interment followed at Union Township Cemetery, Milford Center, OH. Local arrangements were handled through Uht Funeral Home. Memorial contributions can be made in her honor to the American Cancer Society.

**WILKS, ROBERT LEE**, 44, passed away October 13 in Little Rock, Arkansas where he was receiving cancer treatments. He lived in Romulus most of his life. He relocated to Belleville and then to Monroe. He is survived by his parents, Robert and Betty Wilks of Addison, MI; his sisters Vicki England of Romulus and Vonda Kincaid of Addison; his children Jerod Wilks and Amanda Wilks of Tempe, AZ; and one grandchild Olivia Wilks. Memorial services were held on October 18 in Addison, MI with Rev. Ralph Croft of Ypsilanti officiating. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery in Addison. His family will miss him tremendously, until they meet again. Memorial gifts can be sent to Robert and Betty Wilks, 9675 Herold Hwy, Addison, MI, 49220.

## LAW AUTO SALES, INC.

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## DAR collects for vets in local hospital

**To the editor:**

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Plymouth-Northville Chapter DAR has decided to extend our collection for the Veterans in local hospitals for the entire month of November and we are including our local communities in this effort. We are placing boxes in three local libraries-Plymouth, Northville and Canton for this purpose. And we

are asking for donations from everyone to help the Vets.

They are very specific as to the items they need-this is to avoid getting items they don't need. The list they have given us is as follows: All items to be clean and contain no alcohol.

Personal Items new-large combs, mouthwash, lotion, hair-brushes, aftershave & shaving

mirror, sewing kits, stamps, tooth-brushes.

Books and magazines-clean books, magazines (no older than 3 months old), paperback books.

Crafts-(clean)-art brushes, needles-yarn-thread, model kits (car-ship-other), paint by number kits, table games; Monopoly-checkers-Scrabble.

Comfort items-afghans, cro-

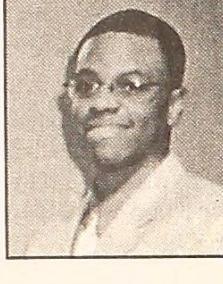
cheted or knitted, knitted scarves for neck, knitted bed socks, shawls.

Personal items need to be unused, and all items need to be clean. Many thanks for your cooperation in getting the word out.

Regards,

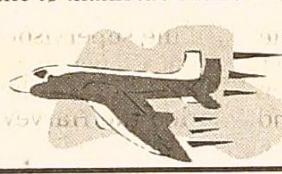
Shirley M. Hering  
Vice Regent Sarah  
Ann Cochrane Chapter DAR

## - GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT -



Congratulations Teanntray Howard on your recent graduation from the Michigan Institute of Aeronautics. Mr. Howard thank Jehovah and his son Jesus Christ, his mother, his father, Crestwood School District, Romulus Senior High staff and faculty, Romulus Police Department, Romulus Fire Dept., and the Romulus Board of Education. He is looking forward to a bright future in aviation. Mr. Howard would also like to thank the M.I.O.A. their support. Mr.

and staff, for all Howard's family is extremely proud of his newest accomplishment!  
God Bless You All!



## CITY OF ROMULUS

You are cordially invited to attend THE FIFTEENTH INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

12:00 p.m.

Romulus City Council Chambers

11111 Wayne Road

Romulus, Michigan

R.S.V.P. (734) 942-7540

Publish: November 8, 2001

**To the editor:**

The primary mission of the Educational Excellence Foundation (EEF) is to provide District stakeholders—parents, teachers, business and community leaders—the opportunity to help students reach their fullest potential as educated and responsible citizens. The Foundation funds projects that enhance teaching and learning in the Plymouth-Canton Schools. The cooperation and support EEF has received from this administration has enabled us to help more students and more teachers reach their poten-

tial than ever before.

To reach their fullest potential, students need a variety of key resources from a quality classroom teacher to good role models and effective leadership.

We wanted to share with you not only our support for the District but also that of some of the elected leadership in our community in the hope that we can return our focus to the pursuit of educational excellence.

Jim Kosteva

Educational Excellence  
Foundation chairperson

## Van keeps seniors on go

**To the editor:**

Thanks to the Belleville senior transportation van I can make and keep doctor appointments. The fares are very affordable. I'm as a loss for words the peace of mind this brings me.

The drivers Bob Collins and Joy are kind, thoughtful and caring people. City Councilwoman Kay Atkins volunteered to serve as project coordinator and was instrumental in the work and the

appointment of the five transportation members.

Kay also got volunteer's including herself to use their own car's to transport senior's to doctor's appointments, church, grocery shopping etc. until we could get our van. As a result the city of Belleville has a van and very happy independent senior citizens.

Sincerely,  
Helen Wallman  
Belleville senior citizen

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The USEPA has added two new waste codes to the hazardous waste RCRA program. EQ Resource Recovery, Inc. is requesting that their federal hazardous waste management permit be modified to allow the management of these waste codes. Addition of the codes does not involve the addition of new waste management units, processes, or increased traffic.

The permit modification request is available for review at the Romulus Public Library located on 11111 S. Wayne Road. A public meeting will be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, November 27, 2001 at the Romulus Marriott. For more information contact Caroline Depp at 734-727-5550 or Hak K. Cho at (312) 886-0988. The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit, being modified is available from the Agency contact person. Public comments can be submitted in writing, no later than January 6, 2002 to:

Hak K. Cho  
Chief IL/IN/ MI Permitting Section  
USEPA, Region 5, Waste Mgt Branch (DRP-8J)  
Waste Pesticides & Toxics Division,  
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60604-0390

Publish: November 8, 2001

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

J. Barton Malow Company, requests bids on behalf of Romulus Community Schools for the Romulus Elementary Schools and Junior High School Remodeling work for Bid Package No. 8. Bid proposals will be received by Romulus Community Schools, 36540 Grant Road, Romulus, MI 48174, delivery or mail, to the attention of Mr. William Routhier by 2:00 p.m. local time on November 19th, 2001.

2. Proposals shall be prepared in accordance with the Project Manual dated June 25, 2001 by the Barton Malow Company and contract and construction documents prepared by the Architect dated June 25, 2001 for:

### BID PACKAGE NO. 8 - ROMULUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REMODELING

- 02070 Demolition
- 06000 General Trades
- 08500 Glass and Glazing
- 10600 Toilet Compartments
- 15050 Mechanical
- 16050 Electrical

3. A pre-bid conference and site visit/tour will be held for all trades at Barton Malow Company's jobsite office located at: 9650 S. Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on November 1, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

4. A refundable deposit of \$50.00 per document set is required. Deposit checks should be made payable to the Barton Malow Company. Bidders shall provide their shipper number for shipping fees if the bidder desires to have plans sent by ground or air transportation. More than one set is available upon payment of printing and shipping costs. Deposits will be refunded upon return of the bid documents to the Barton Malow Company within twenty (20) days after opening of proposals provided the documents are complete, in clean and usable condition, and free of marks or other defacements.

5. Bidding documents can be obtained from Barton Malow Company at the Romulus Community Schools field office located at: 9650 S. Wayne Rd., Romulus MI 48174, phone (734) 941-0869, fax: (734) 941-1278

Publish: November 1, 2001  
November 8, 2001

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Tuesday November 13, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

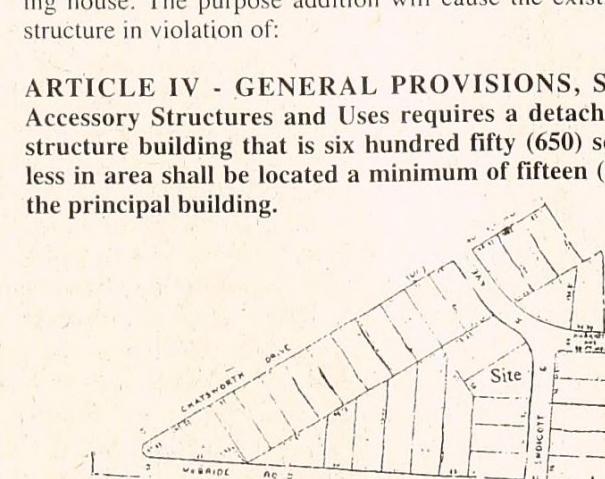
This Public Hearing relates to approximately a 14 acre parcel, parcel number V125-83-111-99-0003-002, located on Elwell Road, one half (1/2) mile south of Huron River Drive on the east side of Elwell Road.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren R-1B (Single Family Residential) Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 43 lot subdivision on a 770 foot cul-de-sac road.

**ARTICLE IV - GENERAL PROVISIONS, Section 4.14**  
Accessory Structures and Uses requires a detached accessory structure building that is six hundred fifty (650) square feet or less in area shall be located a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the principal building.

Written comments will be accepted in the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date. In the spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: November 8, 2001



Written comments will be accepted in the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date. In the spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

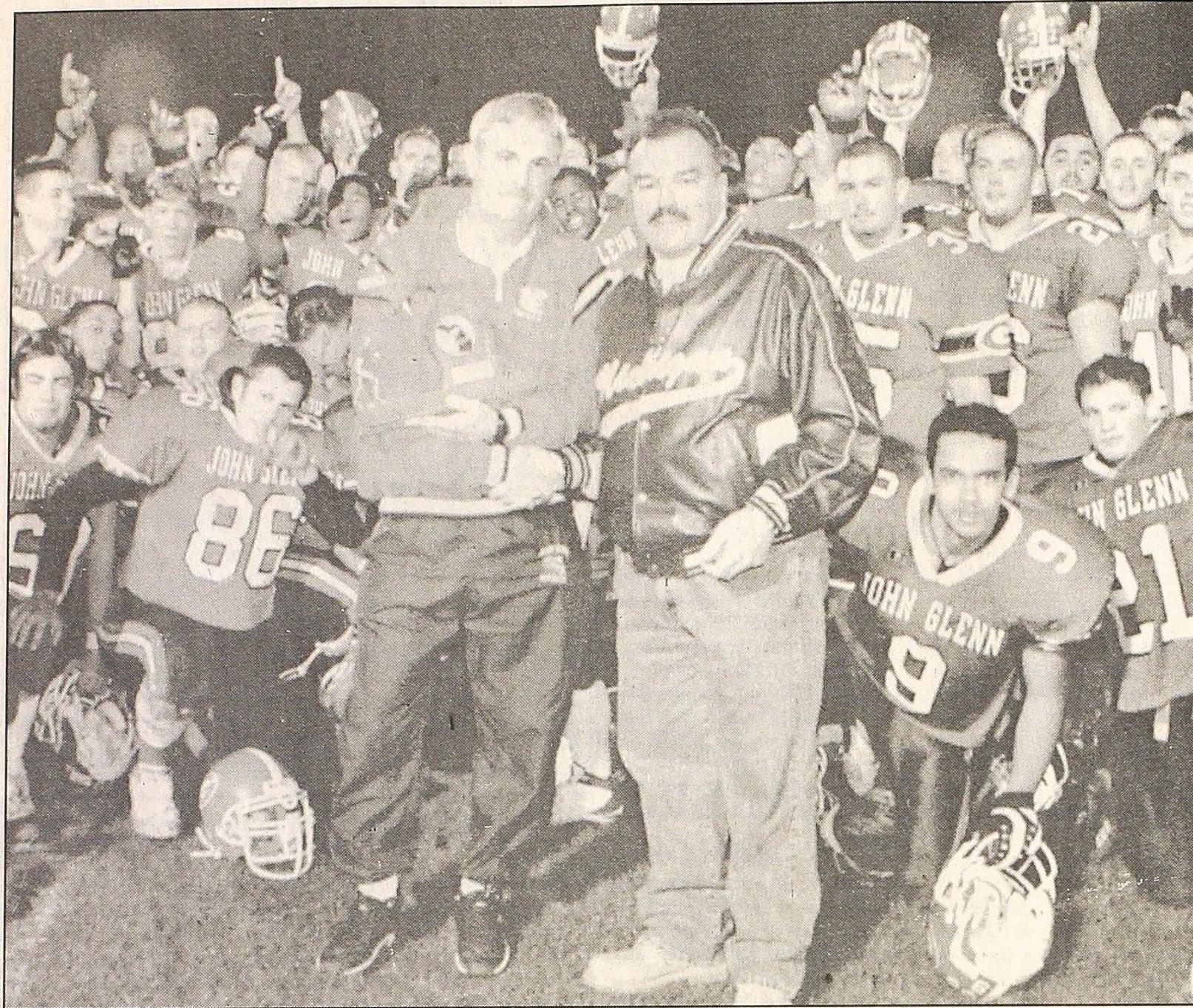
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# Sports

November 8-14, 2001

A-6 MICHIGAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## John Glenn wins district title



With a smiling and jubilant Rocket team behind them, Dr. Greg Baracy, Superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools, presents the district championship trophy to veteran John Glenn Chuck Gordon after the Rockets turned back Monroe Friday night in the district finals. Glenn advances to the regional playoffs, set for Friday night, and will host Detroit Catholic Central in the first round. DCC dumped Detroit King to qualify. Kickoff at Glenn is scheduled for 7 p.m. Photo by Carl Brown

## Rockets clash with Catholic Central next

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

Striking quickly and decisively in the final two minutes of the second quarter, Glenn scored two touchdowns within a span of 1:45 minutes and went on to defeat an inspired Monroe, 27-16, to win a district football championship and qualify for the Region 4 playoffs.

Coach Chuck Gordon's and his Rockets will meet Redford Catholic Central, nee Detroit Catholic Central, in the first round of the regionals. That game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday on the Westland high school's field.

Although DCC traditionally has fielded some of the finest high school football teams in the state, the 2001 Shamrocks have had their share of problems. They have atypically dropped three of their games, but apparently have managed to iron out their kinks for the playoffs.

"This is not one of coach Tom Mack's better teams," said an area coach who asked that his name not be used. "But it is a team that could easily beat Glenn if Glenn doesn't come to play. I feel the match up is one that fans will really enjoy."

Whatever their problems, DCC didn't appear to have any against Detroit King in the district finals. Detroit Catholic Central (8-3) qualified for the regional meeting with Glenn by crushing an excellent Detroit King squad, 33-7, on Saturday.

Monroe was coming off of a big upset, a victory over state-ranked Ann Arbor Huron, when the Trojans visited Glenn Friday night. And the Trojans, after holding an explosive Rocket offense out of the end zone the first quarter, drew first blood in the district championship game.

With 1:41 left in the opening half, Monroe's Ryan Essex blasted a 34-yard field goal that lifted the

visitors to a 3-0 lead.

Glenn answered after the ensuing kickoff as junior quarterback Brian Cekiewicz strung together a five-play drive, fueled by two outstanding catches, one by Andrew Peiffer, and the second, a slant pass to DeAnthony Granberry that went for the go-ahead touchdown.

Peiffer kicked the extra point, making it 7-3 Glenn.

However, that was not the end of the Rockets' scoring in that period.

Monroe's Eric Nagel fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Glenn junior Tony Davis recovered at the Monroe 21-yard line. With 26 seconds left in the half, Cekiewicz came back with a 21-yard strike to wingback Anthony Harrell, and Peiffer followed through with the PAT, so Glenn marched into the locker room with a 14-3 advantage.

The Westlanders cashed in a fake field goal attempt for their third touchdown. Cekiewicz and the offense stalled in a drive that carried them from midfield to inside the Monroe 20-yard line. Glenn set up as if the Rockets were going to kick a field goal and senior Brandon Ajlouny, the backup quarterback, instead of kicking, passed to tight end Will Massey for an 18-yard touchdown. Although Peiffer had a rare point-after miss, the Rockets now had claims to a 20-3 lead.

Early in the fourth period, Monroe made its final bid to turn the tide. Quarterback Mike Leach managed to break loose on a 76-yard touchdown run that cut the Rockets' lead to 20-9. The Trojans' point-after was also good, making it 20-10.

But Glenn answered the Monroe TD with junior running back Tony Davis's five-yard touchdown run which culminated a midfield march. Peiffer came back with the

See **GLENN**, page A-7

## Westland Comets, Meteors are Super Bowl-bound

Then, about 1:45 p.m. the Westland Meteors will clash with the Plymouth Steelers to determine the Junior Varsity champ.

At 3:30 p.m., the Westland Comets square off with the Belleville Cougars to determine which has the best Varsity Squad.

The Meteors qualified for the Super Bowl by edging an out-

See **SUPER BOWL**, page A-7

## Western gets even with Canton

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

The victory qualified Western to play in a preliminary regional half.

The Warriors will contend with Detroit Perishing, a team that knocked off city rival, Detroit Denby, 22-6, to extend its season.

Playing the unusual role of the gracious hosts, Canton gave up 10 points to the visitors before the first half of the first quarter was over.

Midway into that quarter, Steve Bell jolted the Canton defense with a dazzling, 76-yard down the left flank run. It took senior quarterback Jon Michaud all of three plays to get his team into the Canton end zone. He did it with a five-yard toss to Brian Kowalski.

In the ensuing series, Canton not only failed to answer, it provided the impetus for the Warriors' second score. The Chiefs gave up the ball on a fumble which was

pounced on by the Warriors. Canton's defense managed to foil Western's drive.

After three unsuccessful and indecisive plays, Western called on kicker Eric Dean, who put his toe into a 42-yard field goal that sailed over the marker. Dean's field goal gave the visitors an incredible 10-0 lead.

But Canton turned things around as the Chiefs came back in the second quarter to dominate the half.

A midfield drive, engineered by senior Brendan Murphy culminated with his four-yard around end touchdown run.

Canton opted for the two pointer and running back Russ Morrell got the job done.

Then, after an exchange of punts, the Chiefs were back in the game thanks to Reggie Joyner who scored what proved to be the Chiefs' final touchdown of the

2001 campaign.

With Morrell's second of two conversions, Canton was on top, 16-10.

And it looked good for the Chiefs until the final quarter when their defense failed to hold on to the precarious lead.

Western came back with the decisive touchdown in the second half to win its Region 3, District Championship game.

The crucial and decisive series that gave Western the game began early in the fourth quarter as Jon Michaud capped a sustained drive that included Steve Van-Nortwick's 40-yard run and Mike Pisha's catch.

In its final appearance of the season, Canton managed to grind out a total of 262 yards of which senior running back and all-Western Lakes Conference candidate Dave Kobus had 119 of those yards.

Westland will be represented at the Western Suburban Junior Football League's Super Bowl on Sunday by two teams - the Westland Comets and the Westland Meteors.

The Super Bowl pits the top two teams in each of three divisions, or age groups, in the WSJFL.

The first of the three games,

the freshmen, will begin at noon.

## Inkster dethrones Mega-Red hoops champ

## Vikings edge Belleville in OT, 69-63, for title

By TOM MOORADIAN  
MCN Staff Writer

An outstanding individual performance by Belleville's Crystal Steward, who scored a game and season high 34 points, didn't keep Inkster and Coach Dave Mann from their date with destiny. Mann and his Vikings posted an exciting 69-63 victory over the three-time defending Mega-Red Division girls' basketball champs before a standing room only crowd at Inkster High School.

Inkster, which leaped-frog from the bottom division, the Mega-Gold, into the top tier, the Mega-Red, outscored their visitors 12-6 in the overtime to seal their second victory of the 2001 campaign over the defending champs.

Then, on Thursday, the Vikings defeated Wyandotte to secure a half of the championship.

Inkster is the first team in Mega Conference history to capture a Mega Gold and Mega Red titles in consecutive years.

"It is a great victory for us and our school," stressed Mann afterward. "As I told the team later, it isn't the winning that counts, but it is the memories and the friendships they build here that will last life times. You know right after that game (with Belleville) the fans rushed to the floor and gave our kids hugs. That hasn't happened around here they tell me in a long time."

"And, they also applauded Belleville High School's kids and their coach, too. I don't think you

can find a better coach in these parts than Kevin Edwards. He's a class act."

Mann added that "that's what high school athletics are all about."

The Inkster-Belleville game was tied at 15-all as Steward, a 5-4 senior guard, scored seven of her points, faced a balanced Viking assault in the first period. The hosts went up by four, 37-33, at halftime, but the Tigers came back, again thanks to Steward to grab a six-point lead, 51-45, before Inkster rallied to tie the game at 57 thanks to Brittany Evans' three-pointer.

Belleville scored the first basket in the OT and, on their trip downcourt, Evans was fouled and made the first of two free throws.

A Tiger turnover gave Laelah Qawee her opportunity and she didn't miss. Her basket gave the Vikings the lead for good.

Qawee tossed in a team high 25 points to help offset the damage that Steward did to the Viking defense. Two other Inkster players hit in double figures: Evans sank 13, while Khadigian Murphy added 12 for the Vikings who sank seven of 13 free throws as compared to Belleville's 11 of 17.

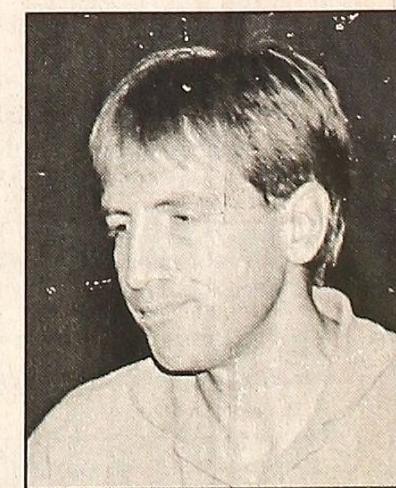
Inkster came out flat against Wyandotte Roosevelt Thursday night but managed to survive 39-32 in a low-scoring game. The game was actually tied at 6 apiece after one and 17-11 at the half. Both teams put 10 points on the scoreboard in the third period and Inkster came out with a slim

12-11 scoring edge for the final eight minutes.

"Our kids were just flat," said Mann, who considered his ball club lucky to win. "We missed on consecutive lay-ups, and that has never happened to this team."

Qawee was the only player on the floor that night to score in double figures, and she had 10. The Vikings' lackadaisical effort also reflected in their free-throw shooting where they canned a mere 17 of 36. Wyandotte made nine of 21.

Entering their final week of regular competition, the Vikings still have Taylor Truman and Monroe to contend with, in the Mega Red. Truman is the team that took the Vikings down to the wire before losing a close one in their first-round encounter.



Dave Mann

Monroe gave the Vikings something to think about for the first half before their upset dissipated midway in the third quarter of their game.

Also going into the final week of the regular season, Inkster has an impeccable 38-game winning streak.



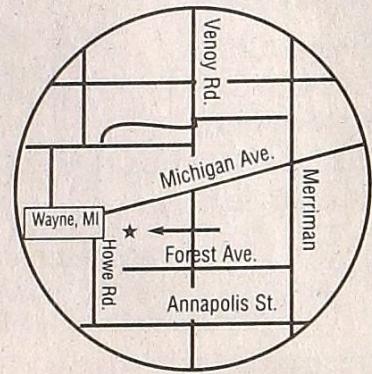
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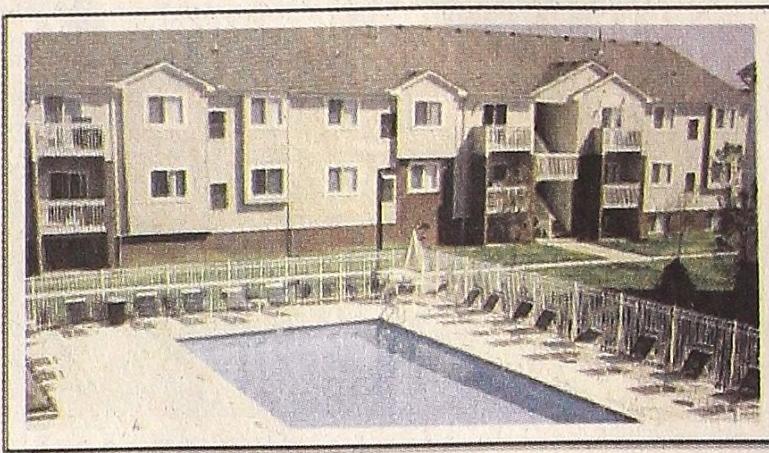
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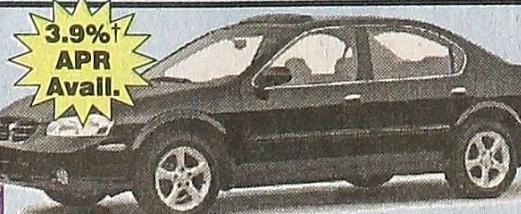


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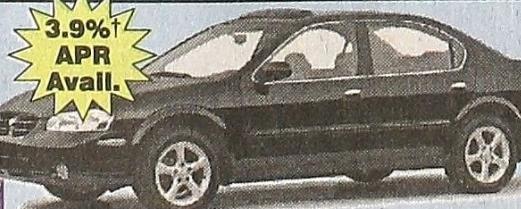


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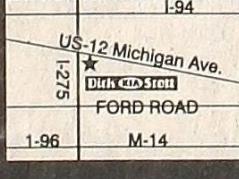
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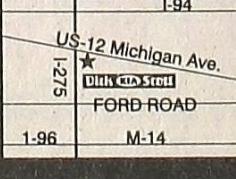
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